

Old Leake and Watts Orphanage,  
110 St. and Amsterdam Ave.,  
New York City.

HABS No. ~~126~~ NY-426  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 4  
Southern New York State

REDUCED COPIES OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Wm. Dewey Foster, District Officer,  
25 West 45th Street, New York City.

OLD LEAKE AND WATTS ORPHANAGE  
110th Street and Amsterdam Avenue  
Borough of Manhattan, New York County, New York

Owner:

Church of St. John the Divine

Date of Erection:

Circa 1838

Architect:

Unknown

Builder:

P. H. Woodruff and Joseph Tucker

Present Condition:

Good

Number of Stories:

Two, basement and attic

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - Stone

Floors - Wood

Interiors walls - Plaster on brick

Exterior walls - Brick, furred and plastered. Granite ashlar  
ground floor only

Roof - Tin roof old. Tarred paper existing.

Other Existing Records:

Old photograph of the building in possession of Leake and Watts  
Orphan House, 1 East 42nd Street

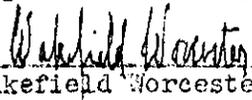
Additional data:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
	This property was part of the James W. DePeyster Farm.	Farm Histories, Vol P New York Public Library
1785	"No instruments are on record for the years 1654 to 1784".	Hall of Records Liber 43 P 134
	Oct. 19. Benjamin and Mary Van DeWater conveyed the property to James W. DePeyster.	
1802	February 24. James W. DePeyster and Anna conveyed to Eve M. E. DePeyster.	H of R L 61 Conveyances P 433
	February 25. James W. DePeyster conveyed to Gerard DePeyster	H of R L 61 Conveyances P 436
	An examination of the deeds shows that the property was divided into two parts - the northerly half going to Gerard, the son, and the southerly half to Eve, the daughter. In both cases the consideration given was "Love and affection plus \$10.00".	H of R L 61 Conveyances P 433
1815	June 26. Gerard and John DePeyster conveyed to Peter Stagg and Thomas Buckley, trustees for creditors.	H of R L 109 Conveyances P 338
1817	June 11. Thomas Buckley and Peter Stagg conveyed to Society of New York Hospitals.	H of R L 122 Conveyances P 159
1835	June 2. The Society of New York Hospitals conveyed to the Trustees of the Leake and Watts Orphan House.	H of R L 322 Conveyances P 159
	Thirty eight acres of land extending from 107th Street to 113th Street sold to Leake and Watts Orphan House.	Minutes of Meeting of N.Y. Hospitals
BUILDING ERECTED IN THIS INTERVAL.		
1841	Leake and Watts Asylum recorded as owners of the property between 9th Avenue (Morning-side Drive) and 10th Avenue (Amsterdam Avenue) 107th to 113th Street.	Tax Department Record of Assessments
	Outline of present building is shown in center of block running from 9th to 10th Avenues and 111th and 113th Streets. 111th Street and 112th Street were eliminated, making one block from 110th to 113th Streets.	Tax Department Land Map 1841-1843 12th Ward Vol 2

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1891	April 26. Leake and Watts Orphan House conveyed the whole block to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in the City of New York.	
1936	The ownership remains the same and the building is used for miscellaneous cathedral activities. A portion, which is connected with the Cathedral by a passage, is used as a robing room for the choir.	

  
Nixon E. Paulk (Author)

Approved: January 29, 1937

  
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

While the Greek Revival was in fashion the Greek Doric and Ionic orders were so often applied where they were uncalled for from any standpoint of architectural design, except that they suited a prevailing "taste".

In this building, one finds upon looking at the plan that it, together with the general bulk of building required, would lead the designer quite naturally to this architectural expression, fashion or no fashion. One finds that the top story behind the cornice is adequately lighted by windows which do not mar the exterior.

Classic precedent is very closely followed in the design of the porticos which are not only dignified but have much grace as well. The additions built inside these porticos are, of course, quite unfortunate. This is readily appreciated by a comparison of the view from the southwest (where the end wall of the addition engages the end column) with the view from the northwest where the end column is free.

Obviously the beauty of the porticos is much impaired by these additions. Perhaps this is putting it too mildly for this is a vicious kind of vandalism too often practiced by people who should know better. The Board of Trustees of such an institution as this are not only charged with the responsibility of protecting and caring for underprivileged children, but also their training for an appreciation of a better life. When such children are not protected and so trained, it is not at all surprising to find them throwing bricks through the windows of deserted tenement houses and defacing often our more worthy buildings and monuments. They do not know any better. But when a person is put in e position of

trust and exercises an authority over an important piece of property and proceeds to cause or permit its defacement, is this not the meanest kind of vandalism?

Wakefield Worcester  
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer